

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W

----- 034926

R 291352Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1453

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 19404

FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: RECENT VATICAN-BULGARIAN TALKS

REF: ROME 18412

1. SUBSEQUENT TO REFTEL WE HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH BOTH FOREIGN MINISTER CASAROLI AND VATICAN DESK OFFICER FOR BULGARIA THEIR TRIP TO BULGARIA NOVEMBER 3-10. FLOWING INFORMATION IS IN ADDITION TO WHAT WAS PROVIDED IN REFTEL.

2. PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV APPARENTLY CONCENTRATED ON HELSINKI FOLLOW-UP AT GREAT LENGTH, STRESSING THAT
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EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WANTED BELGRADE CONFERENCE

NOT TO ASSUME APPEARANCE OF TRIBUNAL AND THAT DISCUSSIONS AT BELGRADE SHOULD ENCOMPASS PROGRESS MADE IN ALL THREE BASKETS.

3. VATICAN REPRESENTATIVES CONCENTRATED ON CHURCH/STATE ISSUES AND TABLED VARIOUS MATTERS FOR RESOLUTION. OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE TO VATICAN IS GOB RECOGNITION OF LEGAL PRESENCE OF CATHOLIC CHURCH IN BULGARIA. APPLICATION FOR THIS PURPOSE HAS BEEN PENDING AT THE BULGARIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SINCE 1949. OTHER ISSUES RELATE TO THE TRAINING OF A VERY MODEST NUMBER (5-6) OF SEMINARIANS IN ROME, THE TEACHING OF CATECHISM, AND ARRANGEMENT FOR CHURCH TO PRINT AND/OR IMPORT RELIGIOUS MATERIALS. THE VATICAN IS PRESENTLY WAITING FOR GOB RESPONSES AND REMAINS OPTIMISTIC THAT GOB WILL BE FORTHCOMING ON MOST ISSUES BUT PARTICULARLY ON THE IMPORT ISSUE OF LEGAL RECOGNITION. ON ISSUE OF RECOGNITION VATICAN EXPECTS SOME HELP FROM THE GREEK ORTHODOX PATRIARCH MAXIM. (APPARENTLY FOREIGN MINISTER CASAROLI WAS WELL RECEIVED BY PATRIARCH JUSTIAN DURING A COURTESY CALL.) IN THE MEANTIME VATICAN WAS PLEASED THAT GOB HAS ALLOWED ANOTHER CATHOLIC PRIEST TO MAKE A PILGRIMAGE TO ROME DURING LAST TWO WEEKS. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME19404
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760441-0766
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976117/aaaaaftp.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ROME 18412
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <30 JUL 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RECENT VATICAN-BULGARIAN TALKS
TAGS: PFOR, BU, VT, (CASAROLI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006